

IN THE DRAWINGS

In response to the objection in the Office Action, applicants submit a Replacement Sheets containing Figures 2, 5, 6A-G, 7A, 7B and 8A-F.

REMARKS

The enclosed is responsive to the Office Action mailed on February 18, 2009. At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-17 and 53 were pending. Claims 19, 20, 27-36, 42-50 and 52 were withdrawn. By way of the present response applicant has: 1) amended claims 1, 6, and 53; 2) added no claims; and 3) canceled claims 2-3. As such, claims 1, 4-17 and 53 are now pending.

Applicants have amended the claims to clarify the subject matter claimed. No new matter has been added. For example, support can be found the specification as originally filed at least in Figs. 5 and 8A, as summarized in Table V on page 28, and in paragraphs [0081] and [0084]. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Drawings

The Office Action objected to Figures 2, 5, 6A-G, 7A, 7B and 8A-F because the drawings are not of sufficient quality for publication. Applicants have enclosed herewith replacement sheets for Figures 2, 5, 6A-G, 7A, 7B and 8A-F and submit that the objection has been overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6, 10-14, 16-17 and 53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0058649 by Grady et al. (hereinafter, “Grady”), with evidence by David Carey “Apple’s iPod Packs a Pricey

Punch" (hereinafter, "Carey") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0117442 A1 by Thielen (hereinafter, "Thielen").

Grady describes an FM transmitter and power supply/charging accessory for MP3 players. In particular, Grady shows an MP3 player with a scroll wheel for user input docked with a FM transmitter.

Carey describes a music player that includes a navigation wheel for input and a digital to analog converter for audio output.

Thielen describes a digital content player having an embedded FM transmitter, an embedded wireless link for content loading from a content server, and a docking interface to attach the player to a docking station or multi-use power cord, wherein the docking interface provides a connection for power, audio, data, and control.

Applicants respectfully submit that Grady does not teach or suggest a combination with Thielen and that Thielen does not teach or suggest a combination with Grady. Grady describes an external FM transmitter to dock with an MP3 player. Thielen describes an MP3 player with an internal FM transmitter. Given that the MP3 player described by Thielen already has the integrated ability to transmit to an FM receiver, there is no reason to dock or otherwise combine it with the external FM transmitter described by Grady. Applicants submit that the combination is the result of impermissible hindsight based solely upon applicants' application.

Even if Grady, Carey, and Thielen were combined, the combination would fail to disclose a hand-held music player including a mini-jack socket to play music into a headphone, a first transfer socket on said casing, distinct from the mini-jack

socket, through which an analog song is transferred to an external radio transmitter, and a second transfer socket on said casing, distinct from the mini-jack socket and the first transfer socket, through which digital meta-data for the song is transferred to the radio transmitter.

In contrast to claim 1, Thielen describes a docking connector interface which includes a power interface, analog audio interface, digital audio interface, universal serial bus interface, data interface, and control interface combined. (Thielen, paragraph [0084]). In one embodiment, Thielen describes an additional dash mount connector comprising the combination of a power interface, analog audio interface, digital audio interface, data interface, and control interface combined. (Thielen, paragraphs [0085]-[0090]). The dock connector interface of Thielen connects the content player to a content server (e.g., an external computer), and that the dash connector interface of Thielen connects the content player to an external computer. (Thielen, paragraphs [0084] and [0091]). There is no discussion in Thielen, however, of transfer sockets between a content player (Thielen, element 20 of FIG. 10) and an FM transmitter (Thielen, element 30 of FIG. 10). Given that Thielen has an internal FM transmitter, it fails to disclose a first transfer socket on its casing, distinct from the mini-jack socket, through which an analog song is transferred to an external radio transmitter, and a second transfer socket on said casing, distinct from the mini-jack socket and the first transfer socket, through which digital meta-data for the song is transferred to the radio transmitter.

The Office Action's relies upon Thielen's description in paragraph [0217] stating that the portable handheld player may have detachable components. This

reference, however, does not describe use of three distinct transfer sockets (e.g., as in claim 1) and applicants respectfully submit this citation is not sufficient to support the allegation of obviousness.

Furthermore, both Carey and Grady only describe two ports: a headphone port and a firewire port. (see Grady paragraph [0039] and Fig. 1 and Carey Component Arrangement). The firewire port is used to provide power to the player and the headphone port is used to transmit audio content. (Grady, paragraphs [0052]-[0053]). In rejecting claim 1, the Office Action cites Grady as describing a hand-held music player with a receiver socket, a first transfer socket and a second transfer socket with reference to unit 259 in Fig. 18, and units 226 and 228 in Fig. 12. Applicants respectfully submit that units 226 and 228 in FIG. 12 of Grady belong to the modular docking unit 200 and not to the music player 256. Moreover, unit 259 in FIG. 18 is the connector of music player 256 that plugs into the firewire unit 228 of modular docking unit 200; i.e., these are corresponding sockets on two devices, and not sockets of the same device as in claim 1. For example, Grady states that the "modular docking unit 200 includes ... a coupling 228 matably engagable with the firewire port of the MP3 player" and further describes "an MP3 player 256 having a connector 259 adapted for docking with a firewire port." (Grady, paragraphs [0064] and [0073]).

Therefore, Grady and Carey also fail to disclose three distinct connectors as recited in claim 1: a mini-jack socket through which to play music into a headphone, a first transfer socket on said casing, distinct from the mini-jack socket, through which an analog song is transferred to an external radio transmitter, and a second

transfer socket on said casing, distinct from the mini-jack socket and the first transfer socket, through which digital meta-data for the song is transferred to the radio transmitter.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that Grady, Carey, and Thielen, alone or in combination, fail to disclose all of the features of claim 1 and that the rejection has been overcome. Given that claims 4-6, 10-14, and 16-17 are dependent upon claim 1, and include additional features, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 4-6, 10-14, and 16-17 has been overcome for at least the same reasons as above.

Regarding claim 53, similar to claim 1 above, the combination fails to disclose

- an audio connector socket through which an analog song is transferred to an external FM radio transmitter, for broadcast at a specific FM frequency;
- a mini-jack socket, distinct from the audio connector socket, to play music into a headphone; and
- a USB socket, distinct from the audio connector socket and from the mini-jack socket, through which digital meta-data for the song is transferred to a radio data system (RDS), which is a sub-carrier of the specific FM frequency.

(Claim 53).

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that Grady, Carey, and Thielen, alone or in combination, fail to disclose all of the features of claim 53 and that the rejection has been overcome.

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Grady, Carey and Thielen with additional evidence as applied to claim 6, and further in view of admitted prior art.

Given that claims 7 and 8 are dependent upon claim 1, and include additional features, and given that the admitted prior art does not remedy the shortcomings of Grady, Carey, and Thielen discussed above, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 7 and 8 has been overcome for at least the same reasons as above.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Grady, Carey and Thielen as applied to claim 6, and further in view of Matsuda et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,774,604 (hereinafter, "Matsuda"). Matsuda describes power supply and battery charging for a host device connected to a slave device, the devices having USB interfaces.

Given that claim 9 is dependent upon claim 1, and includes additional features, and given that Matsuda does not remedy the shortcomings of Grady, Carey, and Thielen discussed above, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 9 has been overcome for at least the same reasons as above.

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Grady, Carey and Thielen as applied to claim 14, and further in view of Ohmura et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,158,842 (hereinafter, "Ohmura"). Ohmura describes an automobile sound system that includes a radio transmitter/receiver (Ohmura col. 7, line 63 – col. 8, line 2; element 35 of FIG. 1; module 110 of FIG. 2) that receives music from passengers' portable audio players (Ohmura elements 200a and 200b of FIG. 1).

Given that claim 15 is dependent upon claim 1, and includes additional features, and given that Ohmura does not remedy the shortcomings of Grady, Carey, and Thielen discussed above, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 15 has been overcome for at least the same reasons as above.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome.

Applicants reserve all rights under the doctrine of equivalents.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), applicant hereby requests and authorizes the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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